

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS

WWW.BASS.HOUSE.GOV



KAREN BASS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
37TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2241 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-7084

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4929 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 650
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010
323-965-1422

October 17, 2017

Deborah Flint
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles World Airports
1 World Way
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Ms. Flint,

Thank you for sending members of the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) staff to my Quiet Skies meeting on Saturday, October 7, 2017. They played an important part in helping my constituents understand the changes in flight paths and other challenges at LAX.

As you and I discussed recently, and as your staff witnessed at the meeting, my office has received a significant spike in complaints about airplane noise, especially since the final implementation of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) NextGen project in the Southern California Metroplex on April 27. I am particularly concerned about the North Downwind Arrival flight procedure, part of the newly-concentrated “freeway in the sky” which tracks over Culver City, West Adams and Jefferson Park in my district.

I appreciate that LAWA has worked to be a good neighbor for many years, though it will always be limited in options for action given stringent FAA regulations about every aspect of airplane movement. Nonetheless, LAWA works to facilitate communication between the community and the FAA, especially related to noise. First, LAWA collects noise complaints via phone, website, mail and other means, and communicates those problems directly to the FAA. Recently, to make it easier for the public to register problems, LAWA has created and promoted a mobile app for noise complaints.

Second, LAWA has hosted the LAX Community Noise Roundtable for many years, and I know that some of the progress on addressing community concerns

has been assisted by having that organized venue for community input and action. LAWA has also invested in significant analysis of FAA data to help the Roundtable and other community advocates to identify problems from low-altitude flights, and from the concentration of flight paths since implementation of the Metroplex project. LAWA analyses help the Roundtable members and the public to understand critical data. As a result of LAWA analysis on the North Downwind Arrival, for example, we know that as many as 67% of flights in some months since April have flown below the published 6,000 foot altitude.

While I understand that the FAA has exclusive responsibility for controlling how, when and where aircraft fly and land, I appreciate that you are willing to work to do all you can to reduce noise impacts wherever possible. Your staff has had productive discussions with my office, in which they identified key areas that may yield some relief, especially from noise during the nighttime. Night noise and resulting sleep disruptions have serious effects. I understand that, out of concern for these issues, it is LAX policy to both take off and land over the ocean between the hours of midnight and 6:30am. While deviating from these "Over Ocean Operations" (OOO) is sometimes necessary for reasons related to weather, maintenance, upgrades and/or construction, deviations mean that aircraft operate over homes during these crucial late night hours. As we discussed, I appreciate that you are working to reduce the need for deviation from OOO.

I look forward to staying in direct touch with you about these important issues, and to learning from you of any ways in which I or my office can assist you and your staff in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Bass
Member of Congress